STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) The Rail link to North Eastern States had remained cut off due to floods for a few weeks during the monsoon season. This had caused some disruption in the movement of foodgrains and other essential commodities by rail to the region. However, there were no reports of acute shortage of any commodity in Assam during the past six months. Movement of foodgrains to the North East is being given high priority by the Ministry of Food and is being monitored on a regular basis. On the request of Government of Assam additional allocation of 10,000 tonnes of rice and 5,000 tonnes of wheat per month was given during September, 1993 to December, 1993. The normal monthly allocation of foodgrains to Assam is 38,400 tonnes of rice and 20,000 tonnes of wheat.

**Availability of Palmolein through Super Bazar**

1232. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Super Bazar has recently issued advertisements through newspapers of Delhi regarding availability of Palmolein in all the 163 branches of the Super Bazar in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for issuing such advertisements;

(c) whether it is a fact that the availability of Palmolein through branches of the Super Bazar has been made after a long time;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof;

(e) whether response of consumers to such availability is not encouraging due to long gap between last availability and present availability;

(f) whether Government propose to take some measures to ensure availability of Palmolein in all branches of the Super Bazar throughout the year; and

(g) if so, the detais thereof and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The advertisement appeared in the leading newspapers on 24th & 5th November, 1993 informing the consumers regarding its availability in the retail outlets of Super Bazar as well as its retail price.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The availability of indigenous Edible Oils was adequate and as there was no demand from the Union Territory of Delhi, allocation of Imported Edible Oil (Palmolein) was not made during the period from March, 93 to Sept. 93. In October, 93 when the stock of Palmolein was replenished through import, the National Capital Territory of Delhi was allocated 2000 MTs of Palmolein which was allotted by NCT of Delhi to five nominated agencies for sale through their outlets including Super Bazar.

(e) Yes, Sir. It is reported that the response of consumers towards purchase of Palmolein this time is slow.

(f) At present there is no such proposal.

(g) Question does not arise.

**Uniformity in Distribution of ration to Public in the Country**

1233. SHRI TINDIVAHAM G. VENKATRAMAN:
SHRI J. S. RAJU:
SHRI MISA R. GANESAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government propose to fix uniform ration quota for the public in all States;

(b) whether Government are aware that there are no uniform norms for the public in the States for distribution of ration through Public Distribution;

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to strike uniformity in issuance of Ration to the public throughout the country; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to issue direction to the States for uniform rationing of foodgrains and other essential commodities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The operational responsibility for implementation of the Scheme of Public Distribution System (PDS) is that of the State Governments and UT Administrations. Decisions relating to scale of entitlement of PDS commodities are matters within the administrative jurisdiction of State Governments and are decided by them taking into account various factors such as quantum of allocation to the State, Sub-allocation to the districts/region within the State, local requirements etc. It would neither be feasible nor desirable to impose uniform scales of ration throughout the country.

**Surprise-checks on Fair Price Shops under Public Distribution System**

1234. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to conduct surprise-checks on the Fair Price Shops under the Public Distribution System in the country, particularly, in the State of Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government in this respect ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) State Governments have the operational responsibility for implementing the Public Distribution System (PDS). Licensing of fair price shops and supervision of actual distribution of PDS commodities including surprise inspections etc. are matters entirely within the administrative jurisdiction of the States.

(c) The Central Government has advised the State Governments to exercise strict supervision over all fair price shops for ensuring proper implementation of the PDS. The need for ensuring people's participation in exercising vigilance over the system has been emphasised and State Governments have been requested to set up village/FPS level Vigilance Committees consisting of the consumers for supervising the distribution of PDS commodities.

**Non-implementation of awards given by Central Government Tribunal**

1235. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of Coal be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the Central Government Tribunal Awards not implemented by the BCCL as on 1st December, 1993 with details thereof giving the case, date of Award, and the present position;

(b) what is the justification for non implementation of the Awards;

(c) what are the details of the legal expenses incurred in the year 1993 till 1st December, 1993 and 1992 for contesting the Awards in the court without implementing them; and

(d) what is the justification for such expenditures ?